

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200979

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE;MLDURKEE:MS

APPROVED BY EUR/WE - ROBERT E. BARBOUR

H - MR. STAHNKE

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R 222359Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: OREP, SP (KENNEDY, EDWARD)

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY SENATOR KENNEDY TO MADRID

1. DEPT (EUR/WE) CONTACTED AUGUST 21 BY ROBERT HUNTER OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S STAFF TO INQUIRE ABOUT DEPT VIEWS ON POSSIBLE VISIT BY KENNEDY TO MADRID IN LATE SEPTEMBER. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO SUCH A VISIT AND WHETHER EMBASSY COULD HELP WITH ARRANGEMENTS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE SENATOR WOULD WISH TO MEET GENERAL FRANCO BUT WAS INTERESTED IN MEETING JUAN CARLOS AND OPPOSITION LEADERS.

2. DEPTOFF SAID THAT SENATOR KENNEDY WAS NATURALLY FREE TO VISIT MADRID WHENEVER HE WISHED AND THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO ASSIST. HE ALSO NOTED THAT CALL ON PRESIDENT ARIAS, DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES AT TIME OF ACTUAL VISIT, COULD HELP ENCOURAGE PROPONENTS OF REFORM IN SPAIN.

3. HUNTER ADVISED THAT PRESENT PLANNING WAS STILL TENTATIVE BUT WOULD BRING KENNEDY TO MADRID ABOUT
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PAGE 02 STATE 200979

SEPTEMBER 25/26, FOLLOWING ATLANTIC PARLIAMENTARIAN

MEETING IN COPENHAGEN. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT
POSSIBILITY OF STOPOVER IN LISBON WAS NOW ON BACK
BURNER BECAUSE OF INFERENCES THAT MIGHT BE DRAWN FROM
SUCH A VISIT IN PRESENT FLUID SITUATION.

4. EMBASSY IS INVITED TO PREPARE SUGGESTED ITINERARY
FOR TWO-DAY VISIT BY SENATOR KENNEDY, WITH EMPHASIS
ON INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS IN AND
OUT OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER IF THIS
SEEMS DESIRABLE. WHILE NO PUBLIC SPEECHES ARE PLANNED,
ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT INCLUDE OCCASION TO MEET WITH
MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. ROBINSON

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